



**State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**DANIEL GRAHAM (1789-1869)  
ACCOUNT BOOK, 1819-1866  
SLAVE REGISTER, 1823-1863**

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**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Creator:**

Graham, Daniel, 1789-1869

**Inclusive Dates:**

1819-1866; 1823-1863

**Scope & Content:**

One-volume ledger containing financial accounts and a slave register kept by Daniel Graham of Davidson and Rutherford counties in Tennessee. The accounts, which include records regarding horse-breeding, personal loans to individuals, and a Bank of Tennessee log, comprise approximately one-fourth of the book and span the period 1819-1866. These accounts (Vol. 1A) are valuable to historians not only because they document Graham's generic business operations but record substantial land transactions involving three of the state's most influential men: David McGavock, John C. McLemore, and Judge John Catron. McGavock, an early Nashville settler and Register of the Land Office, amassed vast acreage in Middle Tennessee. McLemore was an intimate friend of Andrew Jackson, a founder of Memphis, and once served as surveyor general of the state. The jurist Catron became a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The paginated slave register (Vol. 1B) spans the period 1823-1863, and is a notable contribution to Tennessee's antebellum and African American history. Documenting the lives of more than 70 slaves, the slim volume contains yearly comments on each chattel. In most cases Graham devoted an entire page to one slave, and included details such as age, health, marriage, children, vaccinations, work location, and price and place of purchase. The last page contains three lists of slaves: those who were sold, died, and given away.

The excerpts here represent a fraction of the record:

- [p.9] John Adams. 1845 vaccinated and took effect  
1847 Good plantation hand, gives no trouble
- [p. 12] Matilda. 1832 December 22 married Creed  
1833 latter part of August an abortion [likely  
refers to a miscarriage]
- [p. 15] Jackson. Aug. 14 '62 Ran off to the Federal army in Nashville  
in company with Jesse and Monroe
- [p. 24] Jo: Kelly. 1833 a great brawler – had to whip him frequently  
for brawling
- [p. 35] Viney. 1834 May Whooping cough – died of it and general debility 11  
June 1834 ate dirt
- [p. 48] 1845 James K. Polk son of [West?] and Ellen born 30 June  
1857 Same as 1850 – intelligent
- [p. 55] 1851 February 11<sup>th</sup> Jinny Lind daughter of Henry and Elsa  
born – sick in fall
- [p. 63] 1853 Matilda daughter of Creed & Matilda  
Born July 3  
1855 [active?] and intelligent  
'62 24 Sep. Ran off to Nashville returned 26<sup>th</sup>
- [p. 64] Jesse. 1860 quit wife Silvy & took up with a woman belonging  
to Cartwright & becoming less trustworthy
- [p. 70] Monroe. 1858 Separated from Elizabeth & married a free girl  
at C.E.H. Martins

The account book was microfilmed as Volume 1A, and the slave register was  
filmed as Volume 1B.

**Physical Description/Extent:**

1 microfilm reel, 35 mm

**Accession/Record Group Number:**

Mf. 2015

**Language:**

English

**Permanent Location:**

Mf. 2015 (available only on microfilm)

**Repository:**

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee,  
37243-0312

**Administrative/Biographical History****Daniel Graham**

1789	March 15 – Born in Fayetteville, North Carolina
18--	Graduated from the University of North Carolina, studied law
1807	Assistant teacher at Fayetteville Academy (North Carolina) for six months
1818-1830	Tennessee Secretary of State
1823	May 8 – Married Maria Grace McIver, daughter of John and Margaret (Cooper) McIver, in Rutherford County, Tennessee
1836-1843	First Comptroller of the State of Tennessee
1847-1848	Register of the Treasury of the United States
1849	Returned to Nashville and lived on his farm on Harding Pike, adjoining Belle Meade Plantation
1850	According to the federal census, owned 44 slaves
1860	According to the federal census, owned 77 slaves
1869	April 11 – Died in Nashville

From the slave register, it appears that Graham also may have owned property in Arkansas. Several entries note that slaves had been sent there to work.

## **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

Single-volume ledger with financial accounts on recto and slave register on verso. Entries related to estate settlements and land transactions occur in front of the slave register.

## **Conditions of Access and Use**

### **Restrictions on Access:**

No restrictions.

### **Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:**

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## **Index Terms**

### **Personal Names:**

Catron, John, ca. 1786-1865  
Graham, Daniel, 1789-1869  
McGavock, David, 1789-1838  
McLemore, John, 1790-1864

### **Subjects:**

Slaves -- Arkansas -- 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Slaves -- Tennessee -- Davidson County -- 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Slaves -- Tennessee -- Rutherford County -- 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Slaveholders -- Tennessee -- Davidson County  
Slaveholders -- Tennessee -- Rutherford County  
Slave records -- Arkansas  
Slave records -- Tennessee -- Davidson County

### **Document Types:**

Account books

## **Acquisition and Appraisal**

### **Provenance and Acquisition:**

This collection was loaned to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Konnetta Alexander of Nashville, Tennessee, on March 12, 2012. The collection was microfilmed by TSLA and returned to the donor.

## **Processing and Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation:**

Daniel Graham Account Book, 1819-1866, and Slave Register, 1823-1863, Tennessee State Library and Archives

### **Processing Information:**

The finding aid was prepared by Susan Gordon, May 4, 2012.

### **Existence and Location of Originals:**

Held privately.

### **Related Archival Materials:**

McIver Family Papers, 1801-1929, Tennessee State Library & Archives

### **Electronic Location and Access:**

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf2015.pdf>

## DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

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### CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Volume	Side
Account book	1819-1866	1	a
Slave register	1823-1863	1	b